

HARTLEPOOL PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1893,

BY

SAMUEL BIGGART, M.D., C.M.

West Hartlepool:

STEEL BROS., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 55, CHURCH STREET.

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Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

CHAIRMAN—FRANCES YEOMAN.

West Hartlepool Representatives:

J. W. CAMERON, Greenbank, West Hartlepool.
J. SUGGITT, Lower Archer Street, West Hartlepool.
G. T. VITTY, Seaton Carew.
B. GRAINGER, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool.
J. C. DYER, Stockton Road, West Hartlepool.
J. LOAN, Tower Street, West Hartlepool.
C. MACFARLANE, Scarbro' Street, West Hartlepool.
T. MILLER, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool.
T. KIRTLEY, Whitby Street, West Hartlepool.

Hartlepool Representatives:

J. HORSLEY, 1, Albion Terrace, Hartlepool.
J. HUNTER, Cliff Terrace, Hartlepool.
I. SANDERS, Northgate, Hartlepool.
H. WITHY, Brantford House, West Hartlepool.
F. YEOMAN, Henry Smith Terrace, Hartlepool.
J. HALL, Brougham Street, Hartlepool.

FIXED DAYS OF MEETING:

December 21, 1893.	April 19, 1894.	August 16, 1894
January 18, 1894.	May 17, „	September 20, „
February 15, „	June 21, „	October 18, „
March 15, „	July 19, „	November 15, „

EACH DAY AT 3.15 P.M.

General Purposes Committee:

J. HORSLEY,	G. T. VITTY,	C. MACFARLANE,
J. HUNTER,	J. W. CAMERON,	I. SANDERS.
J. SUGGITT,		T. MILLER.

Officers:

Clerk—W. W. BRUNTON, Solicitor, 52, Church Street, West Hartlepool.
Medical Officer—S. BIGGART, M.D., 116, Scarbro' Street, West Hartlepool.
Surveyor—J. W. BROWN, Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.
Inspector—S. W. HASTINGS, 10, Sea Terrace, Middleton, Hartlepool.
Assistant Inspector—T. POUNDER, Pilot Master, Duke Street, Hartlepool.

WEST HARTLEPOOL,

9th February, 1894.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my annual report for the year 1893.

HOSPITAL.

During the year 1893 there have been 49 cases admitted into the Port Sanitary Hospital, as compared with 44 last year, suffering from the following infectious diseases, namely :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	21 cases
Small-pox	...	...	10 „
Typhoid Fever	...	...	9 „
Diphtheria	...	...	5 „
Diarrhœa	...	...	4 „
			<hr/> 49

Of these 49 cases, 36 came from West Hartlepool, and 1 from Brierton, 7 from Hartlepool, and 5 from ships.

The Small-pox was imported by tramps into 2 centres, 1 Melbourne Street, West Hartlepool and Cleveland Street, Hartlepool.

By the vigilance of the officials and from the fact that the cases were isolated as soon as they arose, the disease did not spread beyond the places mentioned and by the end of three months it was stamped out and no cases have occurred since.

7 deaths occurred in the Hospital during the year, namely :—

From Typhoid Fever	..	4 cases.
„ Diphtheria ...	...	2 „
„ Scarlet Fever...	...	1 „
		<hr/> 7

The average number of days the patients have been in the Hospital has been 30.

The Hospital has been repaired since the last gale, is thoroughly clean and is in good condition.

The nursing staff has given entire satisfaction to me and so far as I can make out to the patients generally.

SHIPPING.

During the year I inspected 238 vessels which may be tabulated as follows :—

105	vessels with passengers and emigrants.
86	„ from Cholera infected or suspected ports.
44	„ with seamen reported sick aboard.
3	„ with rags and disused clothing.
<hr/> 238	

Which were in a dirty condition, some of these were returned to the port of loading—Hamburg.

During the same period 5 cases were removed from ships, as above stated, to the Port Sanitary Hospital, 4 of these were severe Diarrhœa with spasms and one a suspicious case of skin disease which developed, Small-pox.

A good deal of time and attention was bestowed on the cleanliness and general sanitary condition of the vessels inspected, and wherever any negligence on these points was observed, orders were given and where necessary, notices served to have them remedied. We always found the captains most willing to co-operate with us in these matters.

DRINKING WATER.

The question of a plentiful supply of pure water is of the first importance, especially when an attack of Cholera was threatening our shores. So this part of the sanitary requirements was particularly insisted on in every case when there was the least suspicion of impure water.

We could do this the more authoritatively as this port possesses very good water for drinking purposes.

All captains who had taken in water at infected or suspected ports or taken in river water were advised to have it pumped out and the tanks re-filled here. The advice in most cases was, I believe, followed.

16 vessels had notices served upon them for having foul and dirty receptacles and water.

The water was pumped out and tanks and casks cleaned and re-filled with water from the Hydrant.

Attention has also been paid to the bilge and ballast water, and when taken in at infected ports was pumped out. This is the more necessary as it is now unanimously agreed that water is the primary vehicle by which the cholera germs are conveyed from place to place and person to person. In short great vigilance has been exercised and precautions taken to prevent the importation of cholera.

EMIGRANTS.

During the greater part of the year the emigration traffic to this port was stopped. It was only in the latter months of the year that some few came across. Some were booked through to America and some making a short stay at the port of embarkation. The total number of passengers and emigrants for the year was 1,316 less than a fifth of what passed through the previous year which was 5,654.

Nearly all the passengers and emigrants came by the Hamburg boats. They were all seen on arrival, both by night and by day, and examined before the vessel was allowed to go to her discharging berth. The examination generally took place at the landing stage, opposite the Custom Office, Middleton. During the whole year no vessel lost a tide by having to wait for examination. The names and addresses of all passengers and emigrants and the lines by which they were booked were taken and forwarded by Mr. W. W. Brunton your clerk, to the

Sanitary Inspector at the different ports of embarkation. Also the names and addresses of all seamen leaving their vessels were (as far as possible) forwarded in like manner to the Sanitary Inspector at their different destinations.

Owing to the outbreak of Cholera at Hull and Grimsby in the beginning of September, it was found necessary to employ an Assistant Inspector, as all these vessels had to be boarded on arrival. Mr. Trench was so engaged from September 2nd, till November 11th.

The coal strike in Yorkshire caused a large number of trawlers and other coasting small steamers to come here for bunker coals.

THE FOLLOWING VESSELS WERE INSPECTED BY MR.
S. W. HASTINGS, YOUR INSPECTOR, AND MR. TRENCH,
TEMPORARY ASSISTANT INSPECTOR.

FROM THE 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

British Steam Ships	...	...	...	633
„ Sailing „	...	...	...	238
„ Fishing Vessels...	...	...	...	81
Foreign Steam Ships	...	...	...	147
„ Sailing „	...	...	...	507
				<hr/> 1,606
Revisits to Passenger Steamers, to	discharging cargoes and Sanitary defects removed		Vessels	} 764
			to see	
			...	
				<hr/> 764
Total number of Inspections	...	...	...	<hr/>2,370

The Nationalities of the vessels were as follows :—

British	...	...	...	952
Swedish	...	...	...	256
Norwegian	...	...	...	209
German	...	...	...	89
Russian	...	...	..	29
Danish	...	...	...	32
Dutch ...	...	...	...	14
Spanish	...	...	...	10
French	...	...	...	9
Greek ...	...	...	...	4
Italian ...	...	...	...	1
Belgian	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	<hr/>1,606

91 Notices were given on vessels for dirty forecastles defective drainage, ventilation, unlined iron decks, sweating in forecastles, &c. 85 of these complied, 6 sailed before completing, when going coastwise these were advised to the Port Sanitary Inspectors.

CHOLERA PRECAUTIONS.

During last year the question that was uppermost in the minds of Sanitary Authorities was the return of cholera. By instructions of your Board, your, then chairman, (Councillor Suggitt) and myself attended the second of two conferences at the Guild Hall, London, as to the best means of preventing its importation and spread, and I again attended a further meeting at the Westminster Palace Hotel in April last. The special object of which was to bring pressure on the Government to throw the cost of special measures by Port Sanitary Authorities with regard to this subject on imperial taxation but no step in this direction has so far been forthcoming. In March and April last, Dr. Thompson from the Local Government Board had long and important interviews with your Board and its officials at West Hartlepool as to Cholera precautions. Fortunately no cases of Cholera reached this shore.

In concluding my report, your officials have to acknowledge the courtesy and help they have received from other Port Sanitary Authorities, especially that of London.

We have also to thank the officials of the various bodies who have heartily co-operated with us in carrying out the details of various measures entrusted to us. To the collector and the various officials of Her

Majesty's Customs. To the superintendent and officials of N.E.R. Co. To the masters and owners of vessels and all who have aided us in our work in connection with the Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.

S. BIGGART, M.D., C.M.

Medical Officer,

Hartlepool Port Sanitary Authority.



